



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIR's](#) | [Help](#)

05 March 2008

**HTI102708.FE**

Haiti: The fiscal identity card; the procedures for obtaining this card, including the time frame and the documents to provide; whether this card can be obtained in the United States  
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

### Fiscal identity card

A migration integrity officer from the Embassy of Canada in Port-au-Prince, Haiti provided information on the fiscal identity card (*carte d'identité*), as well as on other Haitian identity cards in 7 January 2008 correspondence sent to the Research Directorate (Canada 7 Jan. 2008). The fiscal identity card was created in 1987 by the Tax Branch (Direction générale des impôts), which assigned a fiscal registration number (*numéro d'immatriculation fiscale*, NIF [also known as *numéro d'identité fiscale* or *numéro d'identification fiscale*]) to all Haitian citizens and foreigners required to pay tax in Haiti (*ibid.*). The NIF on the fiscal identity card is made up of 10 digits (Haiti 23 Jan. 2008; Canada 7 Jan. 2008), the last of which verifies the card's integrity (*ibid.*). The card has a digitized photo and signature, as well as a few security features, including a bar code (*ibid.*).

In 23 January 2008 correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, a counsellor from the consular section of the Haitian embassy in Ottawa stated that the fiscal identity card continues to be used but that it is being phased out. The card has not been issued since October 2005 (Canada 7 Jan. 2008). In addition, since it is only valid for five years, no cards will be valid after October 2010 (*ibid.*). A stamp on the back of the card indicates the validity period (*ibid.*).

Furthermore, since 29 September 2005, the Tax Branch has issued a mandatory NIF to everyone required to pay tax (*ibid.*). The number is useful for carrying out administrative procedures (Haiti 23 Jan. 2008). According to *Le Nouvelliste*, the number is indicated on a "*carte de matricule fiscale*", which consists of a photoless card that does not have to be renewed and that indicates, in the case of a Haitian citizen, the person's national identification card number, or, in the case of a foreigner, his or her temporary residency permit number (17 Mar. 2006). During a 19 December 2007 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, an assistant head (*assistante-responsable*) in the consular section of the Haitian embassy in Washington, DC stated that the NIF is indicated in the Haitian passport.

### Obtaining the fiscal identity card in the United States

According to the Counsellor from the consular section of the Haitian embassy in Ottawa and the Assistant Head in the consular section of the Haitian embassy in Washington, DC, the fiscal identity card could only be obtained in Haiti (Haiti 19 Dec. 2007; *ibid.* 23 Jan. 2008); however, the Counsellor from the consular section of the Haitian embassy in Ottawa stated that the NIF can be obtained in the United States (*ibid.*). The procedure for obtaining a NIF is tied to the procedure for obtaining a passport (*ibid.*); when an applicant provides his or her previous passport, the same NIF is used, but when an applicant has neither his or her previous passport nor his or her fiscal identity card, a new NIF is issued by the passport unit of the consulate or embassy (Haiti 19 Dec. 2007).

### National identification card

The national identification card (*carte d'identification nationale*), which was to replace the fiscal identity card, was created on 7 July 2005 for the 2006 elections (Canada 7 Jan. 2008; see also Haiti 23 Jan. 2008). This card was also supposed to replace the elector's card, which was issued for the last time for the 2000 elections by the Haitian Provisional Electoral Council (Conseil électoral provisoire d'Haïti) (Canada 7 Jan. 2008). Every citizen over the age of 18 years was required to obtain the national identification card in order to vote (*ibid.*). However, the structures in place do not yet allow for problem-free issuance of this card (Haiti 23 Jan. 2008; Canada 7 Jan. 2008).

The National Identification Office (Office national d'identification, ONI), responsible for issuing the card, has a database on the characteristics of the Haitian population, which enables it to manage the identification procedure for Haitians (*ibid.*). The first national identification cards were produced by a Mexican branch of the American company Digimarc (*ibid.*). As of 7 January 2008, Haitians could submit an application for a national identification card but could not actually obtain one because ONI was looking for a supplier that wanted to establish itself in Haiti

(Canada 7 Jan. 2008). Over three million Haitians received their national identification cards before the distribution offices closed on 21 January 2006 (AlterPresse 17 Mar. 2006).

The national identification card is valid for 10 years and has a digitized photo, signature and fingerprints (Canada 7 Jan. 2008). The Provisional Electoral Council's website lists the information on the card and specifies that citizens must register at the registration office in the administrative district (*commune*) where they live (Haiti n.d.). Like the procedure for obtaining the fiscal identity card, the procedures for obtaining this card require the applicant to submit an identity document or testimonies by two people attesting to the applicant's identity (Canada 7 Jan. 2008). For further information on the information contained on the national identification card and its issuance, see the attached 7 July 2005 government decree on the national identification card.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

#### References

AlterPresse. 17 March 2007. "Haïti : Vers la reprise de la délivrance des cartes d'identification nationale (CIN)." <<http://www.alterpresse.org/spip.php?article5789>> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2007]

Canada. 7 January 2008. Embassy of Canada in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Correspondence sent to the Research Directorate by a migration integrity officer.

Haïti. 23 January 2008. Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Ottawa. Correspondence sent to the Research Directorate by a counsellor from the consular section.

\_\_\_\_\_. 20 December 2007. Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Washington, DC. Telephone interview with an assistant head (*assistante-responsable*) in the consular section.

\_\_\_\_\_. 19 December 2007. Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Washington, DC. Telephone interview with an assistant head (*assistante-responsable*) in the consular section.

\_\_\_\_\_. N.d. Conseil électoral provisoire. "Inscription des citoyens." <<http://www.cep-ht.org/inscription.html>> [Accessed 7 Feb. 2008]

*Le Nouvelliste*. 17 March 2006. Gaspard Dorélien. "Nouvelles dispositions fiscales à la DGI." <<http://www.lenouvelliste.com/article.php?PubID=&ArticleID=27079>> [Accessed 7 Feb. 2008]

#### Additional Sources Consulted

**Internet sites, including:** Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Washington, DC, Factiva, Haïti-ministère de l'Économie et des Finances.

#### Attachment

Haiti. 7 July 2005. "Décret relatif à la Carte d'identification nationale." *Le Moniteur*, No. 50, pp. 1-11. <<http://www.eueomhaiti.org/Cadre%20Juridique/2005-12-12/Decret%20%20relatif%20a%20la%20carte%20Identit%C3%A9%20National%20CIN.PDF>> [Accessed 21 Dec. 2007]

**The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.**